Dear Parent,

We would do everything and anything to protect our children from harm. But we can’t always be present, making it that much more important to teach them how to stay safe. That’s why I encourage you to share these safety tips with your children.

If I can be of further assistance in this or any other matter, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Heastie
Member of Assembly

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Safety Tips

Children should:

- Know their full name, address and phone number.
- Know how, when and why to dial 911.
- Know that a stranger is someone they and you don't know very well.
- Never go into anyone's home without your permission. Children should know whose homes they're allowed to enter.
- Know that if they get lost while shopping, to go to the nearest checkout counter and ask the clerk for assistance rather than look for you. They should never go to the parking lot.
- Walk and play with others. A child is most vulnerable when alone. If your child walks to school, have him/her walk with other children.
- Never get into a car without your permission. Warn your children that someone may try to lure them into a car by saying you said to pick them up. Tell them never to obey such instructions. Have a code word that only you and your child know.
- Know that adults don't usually ask children for directions. If someone stops a car asking for directions, the child shouldn't go near it.
- Know that if someone is following them, they should go to a public place where there are other people, to a neighbor's home or into a store and ask for help. They should not try to hide.
- Know that no one has the right to touch them or make them feel uncomfortable. They have the right to say no.

Parents should:

- Know your children's friends.
- Be involved in your children's activities.
- Listen when your child tells you he/she doesn't want to be with someone. There may be a reason.
- Have your child's fingerprints taken.
- Take a photograph of your child each year (four times a year for children under the age of 2).
- Be sensitive to changes in your child's behavior or attitude. Encourage open communication.
- Have a set plan with your child outlining what he/she should do if you become separated away from home.
- Make a game of reading license plate numbers and remembering their colors. This will help children recognize the numbers and letters on license plates and their state origin.
- Be sure your children's day care center or school won't release your children to anyone but you or people you designate. Instruct the schools to call you if your children are absent.

Additional resources:
www.netsmartz.org
www.kidsmartz.org
www.missingkids.org